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Freeborn & Peters LLP

March 8, 2004

VIA FEDERAL EXPRESS

Mr. Vernon A. Williams
Secretary
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20423-0001



**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 406X);
The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company Abandonment
of South Hutchinson, Kansas**

Attorneys at Law

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Dear Secretary Williams:

Enclosed for filing in the referenced docket are the original and ten copies of the affidavit of publication from the *Hutchinson News*.

Sincerely,

Brian Nettles

Chicago

Springfield

/bn
Enclosures

ENTERED
Office of Proceedings

MAR 09 2004

Part of
Public Record

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION No. 6001

STATE OF KANSAS, COUNTY OF RENO, SS:

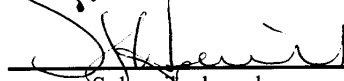
Stacy Hemphill

of lawful age, being first duly sworn, depose and saith, he/she is Legal Representative of

The Hutchinson News

a daily newspaper printed and published in the city of Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas, and not a trade, religious, or fraternal publication, and which newspaper has been entered as second-class mail matter in the United States post office, Hutchinson, Kansas, and which newspaper has been continuously and uninterruptedly published daily for more than fifty weeks a year and has been so published for more than years prior to the first publication of the notice hereinafter mentioned, and that a notice, of which a true copy is hereto attached, was published in the regular and entire Saturday issue of said HUTCHINSON NEWS for 1 consecutive weeks the first being made on the 17th day of January A.D., 2004 and the last on the 17th day of January A.D., 2004.

Affiant further says that he/she has personal knowledge of the statements above set forth, and that they are true.

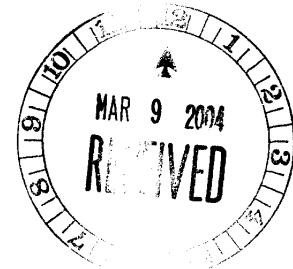

Subscribed and sworn to before me this

17th day of January A.D., 2004.


Notary Public.

My Commission Expires 08/29/05

Printer's Fees, \$76.50



NOTICE OF INTENT TO ABANDON

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railway Company gives notice that on or after February 4, 2004, it intends to file with the Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423, a petition for exemption under 49 U.S.C. 10502(a) and 49 C.F.R. § 11121, et seq., from the requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, for abandonment permitting the abandonment of 2.88 miles of railroad line between railroad Milepost 0.62 and Milepost 3.50 near South Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas, which line segment traverses through United States Postal Zip Codes 67501 and 67505. The proceeding will be docketed as No. AB-6 (Sub No. 406X).

The Board's Section of Environmental Analyses (SEA) will generally prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA), which will normally be available 60 days after the filing of the petition for abandonment exemption. Comments on environmental and energy matters should be filed no later than 30 days after the EA becomes available to the public and will be addressed in a Board decision. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA or make inquiries regarding environmental matters by writing to the Section of Environmental Analysis, Surface Transportation Board, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20423-0001 or by calling that office at 202-565-1538.

Appropriate offers of financial assistance to continue rail service can be filed with the Board. Requests for environmental conditions, public use conditions, or rail banking/trails use also can be filed with the Board. An original and 10 copies of any pleading that raises matters other than environmental issues (such as trails use, public use, and offers of financial assistance) must be filed directly with the Board's Office of the Secretary, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington DC 20423-0001 [See 49 CFR 1104.1(a) and 1104.3(a)], and one copy must be served on applicants' representative [See 49 CFR 1104.12(a)]. Questions regarding offers of financial assistance, public use or trails use may be directed to the Board's Office of Public Services at 202-565-1592. Copies of any comments or requests for conditions should be served on the applicant's representative Michael Smith, Freeborn & Peters, 311 S. Wacker Drive, Suite 3000, Chicago, Illinois 60606-6677 - telephone (312) 360-6724.

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